



## COMMERCIAL BEEKEEPING CERTIFICATE

*Preparing the next generation of Beekeepers!*

Offered by Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) at the Fairview campus, the Commercial Beekeeping program is the only *accredited college certificate focused on apiculture and beekeeping agri-business* in North America. Designed with input and support from Alberta beekeepers, this full-time 46 week (January-to-November) program is designed to prepare graduates to make a living as beekeepers.

Located in the Peace Country in northwestern Alberta, a region with a long history of beekeeping, a world reputation for quality honey, and home to many commercial beekeeping operations, this College credit program offers comprehensive, current, and relevant training essential to successful beekeeping.

The program is a balanced blend of classroom study, practical work, and field trips to beekeeping operations in Western Canada. It includes a 3 week course on queen rearing and the opportunity to participate in the annual Alberta Beekeepers Convention.

*Earn and learn:* A unique aspect of this program is the **PAID** work experience. Students are placed with commercial beekeepers for 23 weeks during the bee season (March-September) where they gain real hands-on experience with beekeeping and honey production AND earn a salary equivalent to other fieldworkers. This paid work experience *significantly* off-sets program costs for students.

Beekeeping suits people who are:

- Independent and entrepreneurial
- Interested in an rural, green, sustainable lifestyle and career
- Practical and active; enjoy outdoor, physical and hands-on work
- Looking for a first or second career

Beekeeping plays an important role in honey production, crop pollination, and overall environmental health and diversity. Alberta produces 40% of Canadian honey and has many large scale beekeeping operations. Business start-up costs for beekeeping are quite low compared to other forms of agriculture. There is room in both the landscape and the industry for more beekeepers.

GPRC's Commercial Beekeeping program will prepare you to make a living in beekeeping either as a full-time operator, a serious sideliner (part-time beekeeper) or a smaller-scale hobbyist.

### Program information

To talk to someone:

- Email the instructor, *Eric Stromgren* [estromgren@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:estromgren@gprc.ab.ca)
- Phone Program Assistant, Lin Roy 780 835 6630

Check the web:

- GPRC: <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/viewcatalog.1.43.html>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/CommercialBeekeeping>

**Scholarships:** Alberta, BC, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba Beekeeping Associations provide scholarships annually to a student from each province. We are currently seeking additional scholarships.

For info about the **Alberta Beekeepers scholarship** contact [Gertie.Adair@albertabeekeepers.org](mailto:Gertie.Adair@albertabeekeepers.org)